



Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership  
Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group  
Meeting Minutes: November 14, 2007

## **Summary**

### *Epidemiology Work Group Members Present*

Jeanne Blackburn, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy

Richard Porter, Chair, Arizona Department of Health Services

Wendy Wolfersteig, Arizona Prevention Resource Center, Arizona State University

Jeanne Brandner, Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts

Jody Sekerak, Indian Health Services

Michelle Anderson, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Meena Shahi, Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services

Catherine Osborn, Arizona Department of Education

Phillip Stevenson, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Dennis Embry, PAXIS Institute

James Cunningham, University of Arizona

### *Guests*

No guests were in attendance.

**Call to Order** by Richard Porter at 1:35 p.m.

## **Welcome and Introductions**

- Richard Porter asked the attendees present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

## **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes**

- Richard Porter asked if anyone had any changes to the previous month's meeting minutes and asked if there was an approval of the meeting minutes. No member had any suggestions.
- Phillip Stevenson motioned that the meeting minutes be accepted; Wendy Wolfersteig seconded the motion. When prompted, all members in attendance offered their acceptance of the motion. There were no dissenters. Meeting minutes were accepted.

## **Announcements**

- Phillip Stevenson updated the members on the status of the Arizona Youth Survey:
  - Approximately 250 schools have agreed to participate, with research proposals still out in Glendale, Deer Valley, and Tucson. This should ensure approximately 60,000 students participating in the survey.



- The prescription drug use question has been changed to delineate between types of prescription drugs (e.g., pain killers, sedatives, stimulants).
- Added to the survey:
  - A question designed to measure use of over-the-counter (OTC) medications “for the purpose of getting high” (e.g., OTC cold medications, pain killers, etc.).
  - A question about age of gambling initiation
  - A question about whether parents talk to youth about drugs/alcohol
  - A question regarding youth's perceived risk of binge drinking
- Deleted from the survey:
  - Phil reminded the group that the questions pertaining to depression and religiosity had been deleted from the survey in an effort to get an exemption from the active consent law.
- Questions asked of Phil by the work group members:
  - Richard Porter asked whether there were sections of the state that were not being surveyed.
  - What is the possibility of improving native (e.g., Navajo) representation among the youth surveyed?
  - Is the Tucson Unified District (TUD) represented? Dennis Embry offered to help with facilitating contact with the TUD if necessary.
- Richard Porter reiterated that we need to secure a permanent funding source for the AYS.
  - Phil informed the group that the cost for staff (namely, Michelle Neitch's position) and the administration of the survey is approximately \$285,000.
- The survey implementation phase is planned for February of 2008, with results available in fall, 2008.
- The final survey instrument is ready, with a net (i.e., after questions were deleted and added) 27 fewer questions than in the previous (2006) administration.
- The survey instrument was viewed by, and feedback was garnered from the Governor's Youth Commission members.

### **Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership Update**

- Richard Porter updated the group regarding the previous meeting of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership, indicating that the group had met to discuss the budget and policy process of the Governor's Office.
- He also informed the group that, as the budget for the upcoming fiscal year is already being determined, the meeting had been an opportunity for the agencies represented on the partnership to practice putting together funding and policy proposals for the next fiscal year with the goal being that the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership will serve as a clearinghouse through which budget and policy



requests will be reviewed prior to submission to the Governor's Office; this will ensure that the ASAP members will be able to analyze the data provided by the Epidemiology Work Group to the budget and policy requests of the represented agencies and provide feedback as well as recommendations to the governor.

## **Emerging Issues Subcommittee Update**

- Dennis Embry was in attendance and told the group his plans in regards to potential projects for the Emerging Issues subcommittee.
  - He provided the work group members with copies of 2 documents: a summary of various potential goals and projects of the subcommittee and a table of predicted and actual adult and teen drug arrests in Wyoming (provided as an example of Dennis's previous work and possible work for the subcommittee).
  - He told the group that he would like to see youth representation on the Emerging Issues subcommittee.
  - He would like researchers to present at the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group.
  - He would like legislators to be interviewed to get an idea of what they think are emerging issues in Arizona.
- James Cunningham asked Dennis to clarify the purpose of the subcommittee as he and other members of the group were unclear as to its purpose and the definition of an "emerging issue."
  - Dennis indicated that he felt that the group should be concerned with uncovering emerging issues around the state as well as with predictive modeling.
  - Meena Shahi asked whether the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group would be receiving notices about the meetings, agendas, minutes, etc. of the subcommittee.
    - Jeanne indicated that she would provide notices of the meetings and agendas to the work group and Dennis Embry will be responsible for keeping the work group members abreast of all of the subcommittee's actions.
  - Members of the work group indicated that youth incarcerated in detention centers may be a good source of information about what constitutes an "emerging issue."

## **First Methamphetamine Quarterly Report Card**

- Jeanne Blackburn indicated to the group that she is still awaiting data from a few members of the group.

## **Call to Public**

- No one from the public was in attendance.

**Adjournment of Meeting** was made by Richard Porter at 3:00 p.m.